

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim

1. Edible barrier suitable for use in food products, comprising a cross-linked biopolymer and a lipid material, said edible barrier having a thickness of about 2 to 1,500 micrometer.

Claim 2 (Original) Barrier according to claim 1, wherein the biopolymer is a hydrocolloid based biopolymer.

Claim 3 (Original) Barrier according to claim 2, wherein the hydrocolloid based biopolymer contains ortho-methoxy-phenolic groups.

Claim 4 (Original) Barrier according to claim 3, wherein the hydrocolloid based biopolymer contains ferulic acid groups.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) Barrier according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the biopolymer is a pectin.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) Barrier according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, having a thickness of about 10 to 500 micrometer.

Claim 7 (Original) Barrier according to claim 6, having a thickness of about 50 to 200 micrometer.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) Barrier according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the cross-linked biopolymer is hydrophobically modified.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) Barrier according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the compound is a modified polymer which contains ferulic acid and one or two fatty acid chains coupled to a vanillin coupled polymer as e.g. chitosan.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) Barrier according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 1 wherein the cross-linked biopolymer is crosslinked to a protein or a vanillin coupled protein (e.g. casein-vanillin)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) Composite food product comprising parts having different water activities (aw), separated by the barrier according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) Food product comprising an edible barrier according to ~~claims 1-10~~claim 1, covering a food ingredient selected from the group consisting of vegetables, fruit, bread, and fish.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) Process for the preparation of a food product, wherein parts having different water activities (aw), are separated by the barrier according ~~any one of claims 1-10~~to claim 1.

Claim 14 (Original) Process according to claim 13, wherein the oxidation is carried out by an enzyme or enzymatic system.

Claim 15 (Original) Process according to claim 14, this enzyme system is already present in situ, e.g. tomato peroxidase in tomatoes.